



TO A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

### From the Director

Partners and Colleagues,

At the start of this new year, I'm feeling reflective. What did we get right in 2022? What do we want 2023 to bring? For the Evaluation Center, 2022 was a year of growth and transition as we added new staff, projects, and a hybrid work schedule designed to promote collaboration and connections. We continued to provide tailored and high quality evaluation services to our partners. We released our first Center Report in May highlighting accomplishments since 2015. We offered two [Post-Master's Certificate Programs](#) — Data Visualization and Communication in spring and Program Evaluation in fall. Providing learning opportunities like these is just one of the ways in which we hope to build a world of evaluative thinkers to improve equitable and social outcomes.

In 2023, the Evaluation Center hopes to build on the foundation that we nurtured last year, as well as create space for new ideas and opportunities. Our entire team has engaged in strategic planning since last summer, including revising our vision and mission to reflect our hopes and dreams for the Center's future. We will continue offering the Post-Master's Certificates, and in fact, our third [Data Visualization and Communication cohort starts later this month](#). There's still time to apply if one of your goals for 2023 is to increase your ability to effectively tell stories with data. We are also excited to begin collaborating with new partners in addition to expanding current projects and partnerships.

The start of a new year is an occasion for us to embrace resolutions for actions that benefit ourselves, others, and our communities. The Evaluation Center logo symbolizes a ripple on water which reminds us that our own efforts, combined with the efforts of others, can multiply impact. So let us consider how we may work together this year – in small and big ways – 365 new days gives us 365 new opportunities.

Each year is a gift that holds a world of possibilities. May your 2023 be filled with joy, exploration, and growth

In partnership,

**Nikole Lobb Dougherty**  
Director of the Brown School Evaluation Center

#### ONLINE PROGRAM

### POST-MASTER'S CERTIFICATE IN DATA VISUALIZATION & COMMUNICATION

Application  
accepted  
through  
January 13

[Register Now](#)



### Featured Project



#### Evaluating Impact over Ten Years

After an 18-month planning process engaging students, faculty, staff, alumni, trustees, and community partners, Washington University in St. Louis launched the implementation of [Here and Next](#), a globally informed, community-driven vision for academic distinction this past fall. The 10-year strategic plan for the university's research, education, and patient care encompasses initiatives that are focused on establishing WashU and St. Louis as a global hub for transformative solutions to the deepest societal challenges. The Evaluation Center, in partnership with Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness Nancy Mueller, developed an evaluation plan to measure implementation progress. The comprehensive plan uses activity documentation, on-going feedback methods, and data dashboards to visualize progress and engagement. In 2023, the Center

#### Upcoming Events

**January 27, February 10 & 24, March 10 & 31, 2023**  
[Post-Master's Certificate in Data Visualization & Communication](#).  
Applications accepted now through January 13, 2023.

[The Evaluation Association of St. Louis](#) offers monthly evaluation workshops/ events. Check out their website for upcoming events.

#### Staff Spotlights



Meet [Ashley Moore](#),  
Evaluation Coordinator

looks forward to evaluation planning with each strategic initiative of *Here and Next* to ensure this long-term effort is able to continuously improve its impact on WashU's scholarship, people, and region.

## Evaluation in Action



Photo description: The RADXSSD project and evaluation team met at the AUCD conference this fall.

The Cigna Foundation's [Healthier Kids For Our Future](#) initiative launched in 2019 with a commitment to invest \$25 million over five years to improve the health and well-being of children across the globe, with a focus on mental health and food security. As part of the ongoing initiative-level evaluation, the Evaluation Center recently created a set of dashboards for the Foundation to share:

- Who has been reached, what activities grantees have used to serve their target populations, and what outcomes have been achieved;
- What supports have been provided by the Evaluation Center to grantees and grantees' engagement and satisfaction with these supports; and
- Grantees' experiences implementing their programs and being Cigna grantees.

The Foundation is able to use the dashboards to assess progress of the initiative's reach and impact, respond to grantee challenges and recommendations, and consider adjustments for future funding decisions.

The Evaluation Center continued its partnership with the [Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center at Washington University School of Medicine](#) to evaluate the implementation of COVID-19 testing through the Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostic Testing in the Special School District (RADxSSD) project. This fall, the team was focused on disseminating findings from the project. After two years, members of the team were able to meet in-person at the [Association of University Centers on Disabilities \(AUCD\)](#) conference. They presented on the unique needs of students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) as they go to school during COVID-19. The team also [published a paper](#) on the barriers and facilitators to in-person learning for students with IDD in the *Journal of School Health*.

## New Partnerships

04/15 —  
07/15

COUNTER  
PUBLIC

20  
23

Source: [Regional Arts Commission of St. Louis](#)

The Evaluation Center is looking forward to working with our new partners:

The Center will continue working with [GreaterHealth Pharmacy & Wellness](#), located in Delmar DivINe. In 2022, we provided training that informed GreaterHealth's approach to understanding what its surrounding community desired from a local pharmacy. We're looking forward to supporting the development of an evaluation plan for their ongoing work this year.

We are excited to continue our partnership with [The SoulFisher Ministries \(TSM\)](#) through two new grants funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. TSM aims to empower formerly incarcerated individuals and reduce recidivism through the provision of a holistic menu of wraparound reentry services. The Evaluation Center will use mixed methods to conduct both process and impact evaluations.

[Jewish Family Services \(JFS\)](#) and the Evaluation Center are partnering to evaluate its various mental health offerings for individuals and families. JFS has been a St. Louis community staple for more than 150 years, supporting children and adults with various mental health needs and resources such as behavioral diagnostics, family and school-based counseling, and psychiatry.

The Center is collaborating with [Counterpublic](#) to develop an evaluation plan for their three-month civic exhibition in St. Louis, which will launch in 2023. We're excited to assist Counterpublic in identifying the economic

### What is your favorite part of the evaluation process, and why?

My favorite part of the evaluation process is data collection, particularly focus groups and interviews. I especially love this part for two reasons: 1) here is where projects are actualized, where the conceptualization of a project is realized – or not; and 2) talking with people humanizes the evaluation process for me, making me feel more connected and grounded to a project and the communities it serves.

### What is one thing about your work as an evaluator that you're proud of?

My interdisciplinary background. It gives me context for every project I have worked on.

### What are you most looking forward to when the weather is warmer?

Warm summer nights.

### What music are you listening to right now (and how)?

Afrobeats. It's a fusion of sounds born out of Ghana and Nigeria. It sounds like Afro pop mixed with reggae, hip hop, and R&B. Some artists I like include Davido, Tems, and Wizkid. I usually listen to music via YouTube or Pandora.

### What's the one thing you've waited in line the longest for?

I stood in line, outside in the wintery cold, for nearly 4 hours to see Lauryn Hill perform at The Pageant.

### Which sports teams do you root for?

St. Louis Cardinals and Brooklyn Nets.

### What are you watching right now (TV, movie, etc.)?

Wednesday on Netflix (snap, snap). Her dance scene was everything!

and cultural impacts of contemporary art on the St. Louis region.



## Publications

### Publication

**Vestal LE, Schmidt AM, Lobb Dougherty N**, Sherby MR, Newland JG, **Mueller NM** for the COMPASS-T Study Group. [COVID-19 Related Facilitators and Barriers to In-Person Learning for Children with Intellectual and Development Disabilities](#). *Journal of School Health*. 20 November 2022.

Cheng AL, **Snider EM**, Prather H, **Dougherty NL, Wilcher-Roberts M**, Hunt DM (2022). [Provider-Perceived Value of Interprofessional Team Meetings as a Core Element of a Lifestyle Medicine Program: A Mixed-Methods Analysis of One Center's Experience](#). *American Journal of Lifestyle Medicine*. 0(0).

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